

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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ELKVILLE MAN CONVICTED OF METHAMPHETAMINE CONSPIRACY

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on November 15, 2006, **RYAN STEIN**, age 26, of Elkhart, Illinois, was convicted by a jury in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. **STEIN** was convicted of conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of methamphetamine. The offense occurred between May 2003 and May 5, 2005, in Jackson and Perry Counties.

STEIN's conspiracy offense carries a penalty of 20 years to life imprisonment, a fine of up to \$8,000,000, and a term of 10 years' supervised release. **STEIN** is set for sentencing on March 1, 2007. Four co-defendants have previously been sentenced to terms of 240 months, 144 months, 135 months, and 87 months, respectively, for their role in the methamphetamine conspiracy. Another co-conspirator has pled guilty and is awaiting sentencing.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, Drug Enforcement Administration, and United States Marshals Service pursuant to their participation in the Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses in the system that will get them the most time. The Perry County Sheriff's Office also assisted in the investigation.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.